

## 26. RANGE EXTENSION OF YELLOWBELLED WREN-WARBLER *PRINIA FLAVIVENTRIS*

According to Ali & Ripley (1983), two races of the Yellow bellied Wren-Warbler occur in India. *Prinia flaviventris sindiana* is present in Punjab and Pakistan, in the plains of the Indus river system, and south through Sind. Its habitat has been given as riverine tamarisk, sarkhan grass jungle or reed beds. The other subspecies, *P.t. flaviventris*, occurs from Bengal eastwards through Assam, Manipur and Nagaland in habitats of humid grassland with bushes, elephant grass and reeds. There is a single post-Hodgsonian record from Rapti Dun in Nepal. However, Fleming *et al* (1976) mention it as resident and occasional in Nepal. There is a single specimen from Meerut of uncertain subspecification in the Society's collection (Abdulali 1986). The ranges of both subspecies are disjunct and thus the species appears to be absent from the Uttar Pradesh *terai*.

In May 1987, on a visit to Dudhwa National Park, Lakhimpur- Kheri district, Uttar Pradesh to study the

Bengal Florican I saw the Yellowbellied Wren-warbler quite frequently. One pair that I was able to watch for a while was seen building a nest. A few days later, the repeated clamouring of the young and the frequent visits of the parent birds with food to the nesting site announced a successful hatching. While the lemon yellow lower belly is a character that makes this Wren-warbler unmistakable, photographs were also taken to confirm the identification. Though the subspecies of the Yellowbellied Wren-warbler seen at Dudhwa is uncertain, it is undoubtedly an extension of the range of the species in India. However, as it is present in the Nepal *terai* (Fleming *et al* 1976, Inskipp & Inskipp 1985) the occurrence of the Yellowbellied Wren-warbler in the Indian side of the *terai* should have been expected.

October 8, 1987.

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### REFERENCES

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## 27. ON SOME WILLOW WARBLERS (*PHYLLOSCOPI*) IN THE COLLECTION OF ST. XAVIER'S HIGH SCHOOL, BOMBAY

While cataloguing the *Phylloscopi* in the BNHS Collection with Mr Humayun Abdulali, those at St. Xavier's High school, Bombay, Maharashtra, mostly collected by Br. A. Navarro S.J. were also examined. There is nothing of startling interest, but several of them add a little to the known distribution of some species and may be worth recording. The first number corresponds to that in Ripley's SYNOPSIS (2nd edition 1982).

1575 *Phylloscopus collybita tristis* (Blyth): The earlier Maharashtrian records supported by specimens in the Bombay collection are 3 from Madhmeshwar, Nasik district. The present specimens include 3 from Nasik collected on 28 December 1967, 24 January 1966 and 27 January 1973 and one from Poona on 4 September 1966. There are no records from the Konkan below the Ghats though the birds have been noted further south from North Kanara.

1591 *Phylloscopus inornatus mandellii* (Brooks): Coll. No. 1675 from Barlowgunj, Mussoorie, obtained on 22 October 1963 was marked *Seicercus xanthoschistos*

*albosuperciliaris* We make it *Phylloscopus inornatus-mandellii* and this appears to extend the distribution about 10° west of Sikkim.

1592 *Phylloscopus inornatus inornatus* (Blyth): Male Coll. No. 1887 obtained at West Khandesh on 30th December 1961 is an addition to the list of birds recorded from Maharashtra.

1601 *Phylloscopus magnirostris* from Kotagiri, Nilgiris. Attention is drawn to this record because the species has not been very often noted in the south.

1602 *Phylloscopus trochiloides viridanus* (Blyth): Specimen obtained at Ambarnath, Kalyan, Kolaba dist. is dated 1 July 1962 and appears exceptionally early.

1606 *Phylloscopus occipitalis occipitalis* (Blyth): Specimen Coll. No. 1932-Funnel Hill (Kamala), Panvel is dated 21 June 1965 which also appears very early but may only be an indication of our lack of knowledge of the movements of these birds.

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